Methodological Development for Normative Standards and Other Research

Area B1 - SEEA Central Framework

1. **Opening remarks and potential for revision of SEEA CF:**
   Sjoerd Schenau, Statistics Netherlands

2. **Progress on the development of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism:**
   Vivian Ilarina, Philippines Statistical Authority

3. **Update from the London Group:**
   Nancy Steinbach, Statistics Sweden
Potential for a revision of the SEEA CF

Sjoerd Schenau (Statistics Netherlands)
Gerard Eding (Statistics Netherlands)
Alessandra Alfieri (UNSD)
Jessica Ying Chan (UNSD)
Questions to the UNCEEA

1. Does the UNCEEA agree that a revision of the SEEA CF is useful and necessary in the coming 5-6 years?
2. Which option for a revision of the SEEA CF would the UNCEEA prefer?
3. If the UNCEEA agrees to start the process of a next SEEA CF revision from 2021 onwards, what would be the next steps?
Content

- Why revise SEEA CF?
- How would such a revision look like?
- What would be the timing?
- What could be next steps?
Background

SNA

1947: first report on SNA
1953: publication first SNA
2008: last revision

SEEA

1993: first manual
2003: Update
2012: SEEA CF international standard
2012, 2021: SEEA Ecosystem accounting
1. General user needs

• The statistical community needs **up-to-date statistical standards** and guidelines

• A revision of the SEEA CF would provide the opportunity **to bring on board the various communities** that have been working on developing methodologies independently

• From the user perspective, there is also the need to see how the SEEA CF and SEEA EEA can be integrated in order **to harness synergies in the production and use of the accounts**.

• SEEA CF needs also to address the **needs of the stakeholders/users**.
2. Responding to new policy demands

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Beyond GDP movement
- Natural capital and biodiversity
- Circular economy (CE)
- Climate and energy policies
- Environment related expenditures
- Oceans
- Etc.
### A: Conceptual issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Chapter in SEEA CF</th>
<th>Status (2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Development of classifications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1a Residuals</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b Land use</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c Land cover</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1d CEA classification</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Definition of resource management</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Integrated framework for environmental activity accounts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>adopted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Losses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Linkages and overlaps between SEEA CF and SEEA EEA</td>
<td>2,3,4,5</td>
<td>starts in 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Fossil fuel subsidies by industry</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. LULUCF and SEEA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Valuation of renewable resources</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>not started</td>
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</table>

### B: Implementation issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Chapter in SEEA CF</th>
<th>Status (2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Implementation issues related to classifications</td>
<td>3,4,5</td>
<td>ongoing / not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Approaches to the measurement of adapted goods</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Economy wide material flow accounts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>adopted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Input output techniques</td>
<td>(x)</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Global DSDs for data exchange for SDMX</td>
<td>(x)</td>
<td>adopted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### C: Issues for long term development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Chapter in SEEA CF</th>
<th>Status (2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Other classifications</td>
<td>3,4,5</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 minimization of natural hazards and the effects of climate change</td>
<td>3,4,5</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Link with Tourism satellite accounts</td>
<td>3,4,5</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Link with social domain</td>
<td>3,4,5</td>
<td>not started</td>
</tr>
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</table>
4. Work on the SNA research agenda

• The Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) started technical research in prioritized and current national accounts issues.

• A revision of SEEA CF would contribute to addressing the issue of well-being and sustainability in the SNA research agenda.

• The work on the research agendas should be further aligned.
5. Alignment with SEEA EEA

- The relation between SEEA CF and SEEA EEA needs to be made clear upfront in the text.
- There are several areas and topics where the SEEA CF and SEEA EEA overlap or are closely related. All these topics should be well described and explained in relation to the two frameworks.
- The SEEA CF and SEEA EEA should describe how they link or could be integrated into the accounts of the SNA.
Option 1: No revision

The first option is to decide **not** to start a revision of the SEEA CF in the coming 5-6 years.

**Pros**
- Less effort is needed from the statistical community in the coming years.

**Cons**
- The current SEEA CF manual will not be up to date and aligned with other manuals / standards
- Less progress will be made on key research issues
- There is no/unclear alignment between SEEA CF and SEEA EEA
- The SEEA CF will become less suitable for many policy needs/applications
**Option 2: A limited revision of SEEA CF**

a) Incorporation of the current and new work on SEEA CF research agenda,
b) Incorporation of the work on SNA research agenda,
c) An up-to-date description of relationship with SEEA EEA,
d) Making SEEA CF more up to date to meet some important policy needs.

**Pros**
- The SEEA CF will be up to date with other manuals / standards
- The SEEA CF will become more suitable for many policy needs/ applications
- Alignment with the new work on the SNA research agenda

**Cons**
- Requires significant investments by the statistical community
- No full consistency and integration between SEEA CF and SEEA EEA
- Funds need to be raised
Option 3: Revision of SEEA CF and integration with SEEA EEA

Including the revision activities described under option 2 plus the following

a) Full integration of the two manuals,
b) Establishing closer links between the accounts of SEEA CF and SEEA EEA.

Pros
• One SEEA manual as the basis for all environmental economic accounting
• Full integration of all relevant topics / accounts
• Allows incorporation of new insights from testing / implementation of SEEA EEA

Cons
• This option will require a significant investments by the statistical community
• The revised integrated SEEA would follow relatively soon after SEEA EEA
• Funds need to be raised
Possible next steps

• Update and prioritise the SEEA CF research agenda.
• Provide a broad overview of key policy areas and their needs in order to identify where SEEA CF may need additional clarification, elaboration of adjustment.
• Describe in more detail where the overlaps and issues are with regard to SEEA EEA and how this would impact SEEA CF.
• Develop ideas on how the revision could to be organized.
• Develop a work plan, timeline, find funding etc.
Questions to the UNCEEA

1. Does the UNCEEA agree that a revision of the SEEA CF is useful and necessary in the coming 5-6 years, based on the arguments put forward in this document?

2. Which option for a revision of the SEEA CF would the UNCEEA prefer? (option 1 is no revision, option 2 is a limited revision of SEEA CF, option 3 is a revision including an integration with SEEA EEA)

3. If the UNCEEA agrees to start the process of a next SEEA CF revision from 2021 onwards, what would be the next steps?